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President's Page

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BAR BRIEFS

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STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Richard E. Wenzel, Editor

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Lawyers are constantly accused of conservatism. It is said that their training is such that they are slaves to precedent; that they are worshippers of the things that are; that they stand in the way of progress. Yet lawyers have taken active part in every forward movement in our national life.

During the last two years the State Bar Association of North Dakota has had a committee making an intensive study of the matter of compulsory automobile insurance. This has been done with a view of aiding the legislature in consideration of proposed legislation covering the subject. In this the Bar Association is rendering a public service.

Another matter that might well have the earnest study and consideration of the members of the bar is that of ways and means to reduce the ever rising tide of taxation. A recent suggestion, worthy of more than passing thought, is that of consolidation of counties for purposes of local government. It is argued that with good roads and modern means of transportation two or more counties could be united into one county and no part be so inaccessible to the county seat as many outlying portions were in the smaller units a quarter of a century or less ago. An immense saving in cost of local government could be accomplished in this manner.

But we might go even further by consolidating a number of the county offices in the larger unit. Why not combine the offices of auditor, treasurer and register of deeds? The clerk of court's duties might be performed in the office of the county judge. A county manager system might even be advisable.—FRED J. TRAYNOR, President.